

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 /085 W

-----230924Z 051868 /20

P R 221124Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4674

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, CF, AO, RH, US, RW

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICA, ZAIRE, CONGO-B, ANGOLA -- AND THE U.S.

REF (A) STATE 057074, (B) STATE 56060

SUMMARY: GOR IS WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET-SUPPORTED "MACHINATIONS" IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BELIEVES USG IS DOING TOO LITTLE TO SUPPORT ITS FRIENDS. END SUMMARY

1. PER REFTEL (A), I CORNERED FONMIN NSEKALIJE AT PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING CELEBRATION MARCH 19 FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN FROM STATE VISIT TO BONN, AND I VERBALLY CONVEYED MESSAGE AFFIRMING OUR SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN TRIP OF FCO SECRETARY OWEN. I HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED SIMILAR MESSAGE TO OTHER SENIOR GOR OFFICERS AND FOUND THEM SYMPATHETIC IF PASSIVE.

2. NSEKALIJE'S REACTION WAS EXTRAORDINARY. WITH ZAIRE SITUATION AND NGOUABI'S ASSASSINATION APPARENTLY ON HIS MIND, HE LAUNCHED INTO SEMI-JOCULAR TIRADE ABOUT HOW USG
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TALKED TOO MUCH AND DID TOO LITTLE TO SUPPORT AFRICAN FRIENDS. AFRICANS WERE DISCOVERING THAT THEY COULDN'T TRUST U.S., HE ASSERTED, THAT WHEN CHIPS WERE DOWN AND RADICAL PRESSURES MOUNTED USG BACKED AWAY FROM FIGHT CHANTING "AMEN, AMEN." WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS WHO CLUSTERED ABOUT, FONMIN INSISTED WE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT ANGOLA WAS BECOMING ACHILLES' HEEL IN AFRICA AND THAT "OUTSIDERS" WERE USING

IT AS BASE TO FAN RADICAL FIRES ELSEWHERE.

3. (HISTORICAL NOTE: RWANDA BRAVED STRONG AFRICAN CURRENTS IN DELAYING ITS RECOGNITION OF MPLA IN ANGOLA, THEN FELT LEFT OUT ON AN EXPOSED LIMB WHEN U.S. SUPPORT FOR HOLDEN ROBERTO WITHERED. NSEKALIJE REGULARLY REMINDS ME OF "EMBARRASMENT" RWANDA SUFFERED DUE TO WEAK U.S. RESOLVE IN THAT INSTANCE).

4. NSEKALIJE'S RESPONSE WAS HARDLY A RATIONAL, REASONED ONE TO MY POINTED AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR OWEN MISSION NOR TO MY REFERENCE TO PLANELOAD OF SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT WHICH USG HAD JUST SENT TO KINSHASA. IT SHOWED NEVERTHELESS THAT GOR IS INDEED NERVOUS ABOUT ZAIRE AND CONGO DEVELOPMENTS (REF. B) CONVINCED THAT SOVIET/CUBAN MACHINATIONS VIA ANGOLA ARE RESPONSIBLE, AND CONCERNED THAT U.S. SHOULD BE DOING MORE THAN MERELY GIVING MORAL SUPPORT TO SOMEONE ELSE'S PEACEMAKING EFFORTS.
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